

**Humboldt State University
Department of Music**

Syllabus

Symphonic Band Spring, 2017
MUS 106H-1 CRN: 21658
MUS 406H-1 CRN: 21665
TR 3:00-4:50 p.m. FRH 1 unit Grading: CR/NC
Office hours: M 2:00; W 1:00; F 12:00 and by appointment

Paul Cummings
Office: 219 Music B
826-5435
pcc6@humboldt.edu

Course Description

Symphonic Band is the premiere wind band on the campus of Humboldt State University. As such, rehearsals and performances will feature high-quality repertoire for various combinations of brass, woodwinds, and percussion. Membership is by audition, and parts are assigned at the director's discretion.

Course Objectives

As a general education course, Symphonic Band involves more than just rehearsal and performance of music for winds and percussion. While an important part of your participation in this course is the acquisition of improved technical and ensemble skills, a more important part has to do with increasing your understanding of music as an art form and its relation to society in general. The arts cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility, and sensitivity. Participation in the arts develop and refine emotional and artistic perception, as well as cognitive and physical abilities, by studying great works of the human imagination and allowing individual aesthetic and creative experiences. With this in mind, I have outlined below a set of objectives that you should keep in mind and to which I will ask you to respond in relation to your experiences this semester.

1. Music has a vocabulary all its own. In order to understand music, you must understand, and be able to use its unique vocabulary. Appropriate musical terms and aesthetic descriptions will be used whenever possible by the instructor when giving directions.
2. Students, through participation in music making, will gain a deeper appreciation of the aesthetic aspects of music as it relates to the human experience.
3. By listening to themselves, others in the ensemble, and the group as a whole, students will develop personal criteria for the critical evaluation of performances. In addition, through musical preparation and performance, students will expand awareness of their individual capacities for creative expression through the arts.
4. Through exposure by rehearsal and performance to music of many styles, historical eras, and cultural contexts, students will develop a critical and aesthetic sensitivity to the contributions of cultures other than their own.
5. Students will be exposed through lecture and demonstration to the broad musical concepts of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form, and the more specific concepts of intonation, phrasing, balance, blend, and stylistic interpretation. They will apply these concepts to specific musical works.

Music Department Assessment Goals and Outcomes

Goal 3: Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.

- Outcome 3: Students will demonstrate improvement in their performing skills – both in the quality of their performance and the difficulty of the repertoire which they can perform.

HSU Learning Outcomes

This course explicitly contributes to your acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to these HSU Learning Outcomes:

HSU graduates will have demonstrated

- Effective communication through written and oral modes.
- Competence in a major area of study.
- Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues.

HSU graduates will be prepared to

- Succeed in their chosen careers.
- Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.

Repertoire

You can look forward to playing a variety of wind band repertoire, drawing from many historical periods and genres of music. While the majority will comprise pieces from the traditional, core repertoire of the concert band, you may also be playing some unfamiliar works. I encourage you to be open-minded about new repertoire and new approaches to rehearsal. It's our group, not my group, and I want you to grow musically and enjoy your Symphonic Band experience.

We will occasionally work on repertoire that employs a smaller number of players than usual. When you are not required to participate, you do not need to attend the portion of the rehearsal in which that piece is being rehearsed. However, I encourage you to use the time to work on other band music.

Responsibilities

Your primary obligation is to come prepared to rehearsals and performances. By "prepared" I mean:

1. Bring materials such as instrument, music, accessories (extra reeds, mutes, mallets), and a pencil.
2. Know your music! A wiser person than me has said: "Rehearsals are for learning everyone else's parts, not your own part." You can learn those other parts better if you already know your own.
3. Attend all rehearsals, and be on time.

All students are required to meet at least twice monthly, on average, in sectional rehearsals. In addition, there will be occasional written assignments that will be explained in class.

Section Leaders

Each section will have a leader chosen by the conductor. The responsibilities of the section leader include scheduling and leading sectional rehearsals, acting as a liaison between your section and the conductor, and managing the distribution and collection of music. Section leaders will also assign parts to players, though the assignments, especially solo parts, are subject to change by the conductor.

Rehearsal Etiquette

